

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:957
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the share of India in export of agricultural products in international market;
- (b) whether the export of agricultural products is still lagging behind;
- (c) if so, the details of items exported so far; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to encourage the export of agricultural products?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) : India's share in the export of agro products in the world market is approx. 1%. Exports of agricultural products are dependent on a number of factors such as domestic production and consumption, exportable surpluses, consumer preferences, varieties traded, quality, domestic and international prices, availability of infrastructure to store, process, transport and despatch.

(c) : The agro-products exported from the country are rice (basmati & non-basmati), cashew & cashew nut shell liquid, oilmeals, spices, meat & meat preparations, tobacco unmanufactured & manufactured, guar gum meal, pulses, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, processed fruits & juices, miscellaneous processed items, Sesame and Niger seeds, processed vegetables, shellac, groundnut, spirit & beverages, poultry & dairy products, floriculture products, molasses, fruits and vegetable seeds, other cereals, sugar and wheat. The total value of agro-products including marine, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton exported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were as under:-

YEAR VALUE (Rs. Crores)

1997-98	24626
1998-99	25387
1999-2000 (P)	23823

(P) - Provisional
(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Quantity-wise and product-wise details of exports are given in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(d): Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the exports of agro products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
3. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

4. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

5. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.